## Message Text

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**ACTION EUR-25** 

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01

H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07

RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8253

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ENRG, FR

SUBJECT: VIEWS OF FRENCH OFFICIAL ON ENERGY COOPERATION

1. VIEWS EXPRESSED BY BRUNET, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, MFA, DURING A CONVERSATION WITH ECON/COM MIN MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN FRENCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THINKING ON ENERGY COOPERATION. BRUNET SAID HE THOUGHT

ORIGINAL FRENCH ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION WAS STILL VALID, NAMELY, THAT COOPERATION AMONG CONSUMER COUNTRIES SHOULD BE ORGANIZED IN THE OECD AND THAT THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN CONSUMER AND PRODUCER COUNTRIES SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE UN.

- 2. BRUNET SAID FRANCE WAS STILL COMMITTED TO PRINCIPLE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND BELIEVED THAT CONSUMER-PRODUCER DIALOGUE WAS HIGHLY DESIRABLE. SINCE THE BEST WAY OF ASSURING EQUITABLE SUPPLIES OF OIL AT FAIR PRICES WAS THROUGH ORGANIZATION OF THE MARKET BY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT. THE PROBLEM WAS HOW TO ORGANIZE THE DIALOGUE. THE FRENCH BELIEVED THAT THE ECG APPROACH WAS THE WRONG WAY SINCE AN INVITATION FROM THIS "RICH MAN'S CLUB" WOULD AROUSE FEAR AND SUSPICION ON THE PART OF THE PRODUCERS AND NO SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT WOULD BE REACHED. AND IN FACT, HE SAID, RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ECG TENDED TO CONFIRM THE FRENCH BELIEF THAT THIS WAS THE WRONG APPROACH. IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT MANY OF THE COUNTRIES IN THE ECG WERE RELUCTANT TO MOVE AHEAD WITH PLANS FOR A CONSUMER-PRODUCER CONFERENCE SINCE THEY WERE AFRAID THEY MIGHT "PUT THEIR FOOT IN THE WRONG PLACE." THE RESULT APPEARED TO BE AN INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT OF THESE PLANS. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS HAD THE EFFECT OF KEEPING THE "TEMPORARY" MECHANISM OF THE ECG ALIVE. IT WOULD BE MUCH BETTER. THE GOF BELIEVED, TO ALLOW THE DIALOGUE TO EVOLVE NATURALLY FROM A CONFERENCE IN THE UN.
- 3. BRUNET SAID THAT ACTION IN THE HLG OF THE OECD SEEMED TO BE PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY AND HE SAW NO REAL PROBLEMS ARISING THERE. HOWEVER, HE STILL WONDERED WHY WE HAD BEEN UNWILLING TO GIVE OECD RESPONSIBILITY FOR OTHER PARTS OF THE WORK PROGRAM, NOTABLY R&D AND THE ROLE OF THE OIL COMPANIES.
- 4. BRUNET SAID HE WAS MODERATELY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT RECENT ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE EC. AFTER HAVING STRAYED FROM THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW FOLLOWING THE COPENHAGEN SUMMIT, THE COMMUNITY HAD NOW MADE A PROMISING START TOWARD FORMULATION OF A COMMON ENERGY POLICY (PRESUMABLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A REFERENCE TO DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED EC BRUSSELS 2149). IRWIN

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## Message Attributes

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